

## KY Tech Teacher and Beginning Teacher of the Year Candidates Gather in Frankfort to be Honored



KY Tech Teacher of the Year candidates pose with OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik, right, and Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter, left. Pictured above from left: Carter, Roc Moore, Harrodsburg ATC; Karl Watson, Wayne Co. ATC; Dutch Kennedy, Boone Co. ATC; Martha Williams, Martin Co. ATC; Jayne Powell, Paducah ATC; Mary Whalen, Mason Co. ATC; Gary Lail, Harrison Co. ATC and Jezik. Seated, Michael Derry, Millard ATC. Inset photo: Thomas Thompson, Breckinridge Co. ATC.

## 2004 KY Tech Beginning Teacher of the Year Candidates



**KY Tech Beginning Teacher of the Year candidates pose with OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik, right, and Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter, left. Pictured above from left: Carter, David McCoy, Meade Co. ATC; David Collins, Mason Co. ATC; John Thomas, Boone Co. ATC; Paul Caldwell, Murray/Calloway Co. ATC; Douglas Borchers, C.E. McCormick ATC; Ted Lowe, Carroll Co. ATC; Michael Fischer, Clark Co. ATC; Thomas Sprinkle, Montgomery Co. ATC; and Jezik.**

**On Wednesday, December 1, 2004, eighteen KY Tech instructors were invited to Frankfort to complete their “KY Tech Teacher of the Year” interviews. While in Frankfort, the teachers were treated to a special luncheon held in their honor. They had an opportunity to meet central office staff and discuss the outstanding projects going on in their respective classrooms. The whole day was held to acknowledge the efforts of each teacher because of what they do every day at the front line.**

**During the day, each instructor was asked, “What do you love most about teaching in the KY Tech System of Schools?” Their answers follow.**

## **2004 Beginning KY Tech Teacher of the Year Candidates**

**David Collins, electrical technology instructor at the Mason Co. ATC**  
– **“I took an adult electricity night class at this school in 1971. The area technology center is the best-kept secret in the county. Where can you go to get the types of skills we offer here to become successful in finding a quality job? This is the most rewarding job that I have ever had and I retired from the electricity industry after 31 years of service.”**

**David McCoy, welding instructor at the Meade Co. ATC** – “I receive great satisfaction in helping students to achieve a successful career.”

**Douglas Borchers, automotive technology instructor at the C.E. McCormick ATC** – “My greatest pleasure is in seeing my students excel in learning their skills and implementing those skills in an activity. This provides me with an immense degree of personal satisfaction because I know that I am making a difference in helping them to achieve career objectives.”

**John Thomas, auto body repair instructor at the Boone Co. ATC** – “Making a positive connection with high school kids is something that keeps me excited about what I do for a living. It’s a challenge and my lifelong passion.”

**Michael Fischer, information technology instructor at the Clark Co. ATC** – “To be honest, I just enjoy teaching. You know, the kids can tell if a teacher enjoys his or her work and I love my work.”

**Paul Caldwell, welding instructor at the Murray/Calloway Co. ATC** – “This is a great system for both teaching and working. This is my second year of teaching and I plan to make it my career because I love working with kids.”



Ted Lowe, carpentry instructor at the Carroll Co. ATC – “There is nothing else that I would rather do.”

Thomas Sprinkle, information technology instructor at the Montgomery Co. ATC – “You get to apply your technical skills along with teaching and interpersonal skills – so I’m fulfilled.”

## 2004 KY Tech Teacher of the Year Candidates

Dutch Kennedy, welding instructor at the Boone Co. ATC – “I love working with kids. If I can teach these students then I feel that I’m giving back to my community and to the future workforce. It gives me personal satisfaction to know that I am making a difference in their lives.”

Gary Lail, carpentry instructor at the Harrison Co. ATC – “Teaching my trade to students helps them to achieve life skills as well as a career. I’m actually teaching in the program where I graduated – it’s great.”

Jayne Powell, cosmetology instructor at the Paducah ATC – “I attended the cosmetology program at the Paducah ATC in 1966, which was the very first year the program opened. I’m right where I have always wanted to be.”

**Karl Watson, welding instructor at the Wayne Co. ATC** – “The KY Tech system is a great environment for teaching students real life skills and learning how to be effective in the workplace. I take my teaching role seriously in being an example for my students.”

**Martha Williams, health sciences instructor at the Martin Co. ATC** – “I worked in nursing for 17 years and had never found the family-like atmosphere that exists at the Martin Co. ATC. I love what I do because we can make an impact on the lives of our students.”

**Mary Whalen, health sciences instructor at the Mason Co. ATC** – “I work with the ten greatest people in the entire world. They are all supportive of the KY Tech System, each other and their students.”

**Michael Derry, industrial maintenance technology instructor at the Millard ATC** – “I like to see the look of accomplishment on a student’s face when he or she finishes a task assignment. We’re training now for our future and KY Tech plays an important role in that mission.”

**Roc Moore, automotive technology instructor at the Harrodsburg ATC** – “Teaching is my passion; teenagers are my favorite people; and Kentucky is my home. I graduated from the Harrodsburg ATC automotive technology program in 1975. I’ve made a full circle and am getting paid to do what I love to do.”

**Thomas Thompson, machine tool technology instructor at the Breckinridge Co. ATC – “The reason I like teaching is to help other people. I enjoy teaching in a block schedule because it gives me the flexibility to work individually with students as well as in the shop.”**

**Congratulations to each KY Tech Teacher of the Year and KY Tech Beginning Teacher of the Year candidate. We all salute your professionalism, standards of excellence and awareness of the importance technical education plays in the lives of our students. You are making a difference every day. You are appreciated.**

**The formal awards and recognition program will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at the Jackson Co. ATC beginning at 12:30 p.m. We encourage you to come out and support your colleagues.**

**Good News Flash #99  
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